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Faith's Reasons

The Catholic Intellectual Tradition at the University of Dayton

"St. Peter said that we must give a reason for the faith that is in us, and I am trying to give you those reasons . . ." —Dorothy Day

Leadership and Scholarship

University Receives \$2 Million Lilly Grant

The University of Dayton has received a \$2 million grant from the Lilly Foundation for an innovative project that will help students to connect personal vocation and university learning. The grant will provide students, staff and faculty with new opportunities to develop a key element of the University's mission: placing learning in the context of leadership and service. The activities funded by the grant aim at helping students think about their education and growth—including their professional development—in light of their faith tradition and the idea of vocation.

Led by University Professor of Faith and Culture Fr. James L. Heft, S.M., the grant application process involved first submitting and winning an initial \$50,000 planning grant. The planning grant funded the activities of a 13-member planning committee, which met regularly for six months of research, discussion and off-campus visits in order to design the project.

The \$2 million will fund scholarships for 15 students a year, who will participate in a variety of activities that lead them in developing their sense of their own vocations. These activities will include three three-credit seminars, to be taken in the sophomore, junior and senior years. Other

activities aimed at helping students develop a sense of themselves as leaders in light of Christian faith traditions will be available to students beyond the 15 enrolled in the program yearly. The grant will also fund workshops and off-campus retreats for both new and established faculty and staff. The program defines vocation broadly, as referring not solely to the call to priesthood or religious life, but also to the responsibilities every Christian is called to through baptism.

Death of Brother Todd Ridder, S.M.

The most momentous news this fall among those interested in the Catholic intellectual tradition at the University of Dayton was also the worst—the death of Brother Todd Ridder, S.M. Todd died suddenly at the age of 53 on the night of September 14, 2000, the feast of the Holy Cross.

Brother Todd participated in the year-long seminar in 1993-94 that launched the General Education cluster in the Catholic intellectual tradition, and was an exuberant and dedicated participant in every manner of Catholic intellectual tradition activity and discussion since. His courses in sacred and liturgical music history were vital additions to students' understanding of a tradition in which the intellectual and the artistic, love and knowledge, complete each other.

He founded the Schola Cantorum Daytoniensis in response to a request from Ray Herbenick that a group perform Ambrosian Rite vespers for the Philosophy Department Colloquium on Augustine in 1994. He wore great learning lightly, in the Schola as in so many other ways. The programs he prepared for the Schola's services and performances were aids to both knowledge and prayer—they contained a wealth of scholarly information about the history of a feast and its liturgy, and explained a service and translated its texts in a way that made attendees into participants.

Under the leadership of Dr. Charles Larkowski from Wright State University, the Schola has continued this fall with the year's program Todd arranged last summer. Just weeks after Todd's death we sang a mass for the Feast of Our Lady of the Pillar, connecting Marianist commemoration of that shrine with the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month on campus. And on the eve of the Feast of St. Nicholas we sang First Vespers at the chapel of United Theological Seminary, an event arranged after Todd attended the dedication of their new organ last February. We'll sing Tenebrae during Holy Week, at the end of a semester during which Todd was to have enjoyed a more-than-earned sabbatical.

Todd was one of the members of the President's Task Force on the Univer-

sity's Catholic and Marianist Character, responding to the Sesquicentennial Conversations held by all units of the University. In the reflections he wrote on the Task Force's work this past August, he said (among other things): "It seems that the prevailing understanding of and identifications with UD's Catholic and Marianist character is somewhat thin (e.g., a spirit of faith, apostolic dedication to Mary's mission, uncomplaisance with Catholicism). The 'easy' virtues and practices (e.g., hospitality) are in, but it is time to expand the dialogue! . . . We have to be serious about the engagement between faith (i.e., our Catholic and Marianist character) and culture, and not conflict-adverse in this area. If it's worth doing, it's worth some good honest disagreement and dialogue. . . . We can't pretend that Mary is the elephant in the room that everyone tip-toes around, or that she is the benevolent grandmother about whom all talk in reverent tones but no one really listens to."

Todd made enormous contributions as a scholar, performer, teacher, and unfailingly congenial colleague. We feel his loss deeply and will continue to do so for a long while.

Seminar in Religion and Science

In his role as University Professor of Faith and Culture, Fr. James L. Heft, S.M., led the third faculty seminar, this time on the topic of religion and science. Participants included **Michael Barnes** (Religious Studies; Alumni Chair in Humanities), **Robert Brecha** (Physics), **Daniel Fouke** (Philosophy), **John Heitmann** (History), **Therese Lysaught** (Religious Studies), **Gary Morrow** (Chemistry), **Donald Pair** (Geology), **Barbara Smith** (Computer Science), **Jeffrey**

Stavnhagen (Biology) and **Shirley Wright** (Biology). The participants received a one-course reduction for the winter 2000 semester, and met weekly during the term to discuss readings in the topic area. Over the summer each conducted research related to the topic, the results of which were exchanged at a concluding meeting and dinner this fall. Brief descriptions of the research undertaken by three of the participants follow.

Daniel Fouke (Philosophy)

For the seminar I worked on part of a manuscript on John Toland (1670-1721), one of the most important of the so-called deists, who is known for his connections to more widely read philosophers, such as John Locke and G.W. Leibniz, for compiling important editions of political philosophers, and for authoring a few religiously controversial treatises, primarily his *Christianity Not Mysteriorum* (1696) and *Letters to Serena* (1704). I argue that Toland adopted a method of philosophizing which his friend, Shaftesbury, characterized as "the way of paradox." The way of paradox takes up notions and sets up systems of philosophy, not out of philosophical conviction, but for no other reason than their outrageousness. The function of the discourse is not to convey truth directly, but to disturb dogmatic certainty and undermine authority. Toland turned theological discourse on its head, to mirthfully taunt, perplex, and insinuate, to make verbal gestures of defiance. The result was philosophy in a satiric or burlesque manner.

John Heitmann (History)

Since the beginning of this summer, my research and writing have focused on the *Institutum Divi Thomae* (IDT). In June, 1935, John T. McNicholas, O.P., Archbishop of Cincinnati, played the leading role in

creating the IDT, a well-publicized, and for a time highly-productive, Church-sponsored scientific research laboratory and graduate school. McNicholas maintained that this new institution would have two major objectives: first, to train broadly a new generation of scientists; and second, to demonstrate the compatibility of science and religion. At its inception the IDT was more than a teaching and research laboratory. The *Institutum* was also an American Catholic response to modernism and scientific materialism as well as an influential vehicle for the training of predominantly Catholic scientists. Finally, UD was intimately linked to the IDT history until it closed in the late 1970s; both Bro. William A. Beck, S.M. and Bro. Russell Joly, S.M. were involved. Several other prominent IDT faculty members and administrators received UD honorary degrees between 1935 and 1946.

Shirley Wright (Biology)

As a developmental biologist, I chose to study the issue of human embryonic stem cell research. Stem cells are unspecialized cells of the body which can give rise to many differentiated (specialized) cell types. They are prime candidates to grow human therapeutic replacement tissues for many diseases such as diabetes, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, blood disorders and diseases of the immune system. While human embryonic stem cells hold great promise as a therapeutic tissue and as a model for normal development, there is a catch. Embryonic stem cells are harvested from human embryos that are destroyed in the process of deriving the cells. My research paper explored the many ethical issues involved with the research, as well as the religious, social, political and legal issues surrounding the research.

A Pilgrimage to Fr. Chaminade's Beatification by Una Cadegan

Most media coverage of the September 3, 2000 beatification ceremonies at the Vatican focused on Pope Pius IX and Pope John XXIII, perhaps mentioning in an aside that "three others" were beatified in the same ceremony. For a large group from the University of Dayton, however, and an even larger group (more than 5000) from all over the world, the main event was the beatification of Marianist founder William Joseph Chaminade. Three events connected with the beatification gave rise to interconnected reflections about being associated with Marianist educational work.

On Saturday night before the beatification ceremony, the Marianists hosted a prayer vigil attended by over 5000 people in the outdoor courtyard of the Marianist high school in Rome. The prayer service used four different languages and a mix of familiar ritual elements (song, procession, candles) and high-tech gadgetry (large-screen PowerPoint projection) to engage pilgrims in a sustained reflection on the Annunciation. When we were asked to turn to those around us and repeat the angel's words to Mary—"Rejoice! The Lord is with you!"—in our native languages, the people in front of us greeted us in Spanish, those beside us in Italian, those behind us in African-inflected French. There could be few more powerfully affecting experiences of the reality of unity in difference.

Sunday's beatification was moving in contradictory, exhilarating ways. St. Peter's Square is startlingly familiar, even homey, to someone who has

never seen it before, its architectural balance masking its immensity—you have to keep reminding yourself how huge it is, and how many people are in it with you. While the solemn formality of Roman ceremony can distance someone accustomed to American casualness in all things, including religious ritual, the familiarity of the liturgy intensified the feeling that I belonged there despite the strangeness. As a historian, I felt like a disinterested but fascinated ethnographer, observing the mix of people and the wide variety of ways in which they expressed themselves as pilgrims—pilgrim scarves worn as pony-tail holders and hatbands; piazza-wide applause at any mention of John XXIII's name, a pointed silence at the mention of Pius IX's. As a believer, I was caught up in the enormity and the depth of the place and the event, the time-honored reaction of the American in Rome when confronted with just how far beyond our own cultural experience the history and tradition of Catholic Christianity extends.

Monday featured a Mass of Thanksgiving at the Cathedral of St. Paul's Outside-the-Walls. Sitting almost in the back row could have seemed a little alienating, but the effect was the opposite—a tangible sense of just how full the huge space was of people and energy and joy. Again, the ceremony proceeded in a mix of languages that emphasized our many origins; the celebration highlighted the many stages and forms of Marianist life—renewal of vows for those long-professed, commissioning of a new community in Cuba, recognition of a Spanish family of six brothers and sisters all of whom entered vowed Marianist religious life.

Also in attendance at the Mass of Thanksgiving was the woman whose cure had provided the miracle neces-

sary for Chaminade's canonization. When she was introduced, my immediate reaction was to think "Catholicism is so weird." Not a particularly devout response, nor particularly scholarly, coming from someone who considers herself a cultural historian of Catholicism, but the more I think about it the more I'm convinced it captures something of the complexity of pilgrimage. To feel and see both the familiarity and strangeness of a religious tradition is necessary to mindful living of it.

Marian Library Exhibits

Two artistic celebrations of Christian themes are centerpieces of the activities of the Marian Library this year.

The first, "Mirror of Hope," by Kevin Hanna of Norwalk, CT, is a gift from the Marian Library to the University on the occasion of its Sesquicentennial. It was installed in the Roesch Library Gallery on October 12, 2000. The detailed and engaging wood-and-clay sculpture encompasses all of salvation history in both its form (a triangle with eternity and the Incarnation at center) and its content (scenes from scripture and the history of Christianity).

The second, "Christian Art in the 20th Century," will be an exhibit to begin in February 2001 and run until the end of the semester. Based on a collection of prints owned by the German paper company Ulrich Scheufelen, the exhibit will be installed in the Roesch Library Gallery and in the Marian Library. It will feature some of the highest-quality art ever exhibited at the University, including works by Dürer, Manet, Chagall, Rouault, and Rauschenberg.

Honorary Degree to Walter Ong

As part of the October 13-14, 2000 Conference on Christianity and Literature (CCL), held at the University of Dayton, Fr. Walter Ong received an honorary doctor of humanities degree from the University. Presented by Bro. Ray Fitz, the president, at a ceremony in Immaculate Conception Chapel, the degree recognized Fr. Ong's sustained contribution to U.S. Catholic intellectual life. Following the ceremony was a "Conversation on Faith and the Literary Scholar" between Walter Ong and literary critic Wayne Booth, author of *The Rhetoric of Fiction* and *The Company We Keep: An Ethics of Fiction*, moderated by English Department Chairperson Brian Conniff.

The October CCL meeting, with the theme, "Identity and Spirituality: The Ethics of the Articulated Self in Literature," marked the third time the CCL has been held at UD in the past five years. Also featured was the work of poet Pat Mora, author of *My Own True Name: New and Selected Poems for Young Adults*, *Aunt Carmen's Book of Practical Saints* and *Agua Santa: Holy Water*. Dr. Herbert Martin, Poet in Residence at UD, and Dr. Willie Morris, (Music), presented, as a blessing for the gathering at lunch, "Improvisation on 'Walk Together Children,'" the poem Dr. Martin wrote for the Sesquicentennial Convocation and Dr. Morris's saxophone improvisation on the poem. Bro. Tom Wendorf, S.M., (English), presented his paper, "Authenticating Religious Experience: Point of View and the Discernment of Spirits in Ron Hansen's *Mariette in Ecstasy*." The Conference on Christianity and Literature will meet again at UD in October, 2001.

Three Religious Studies Authors

New books representing an impressively wide range of expertise on the part of three Religious Studies Department faculty members have appeared in recent months.

Michael Barnes' *Stages of Thought: The Co-Evolution of Religious Thought and Science* (Oxford University Press) focuses on the "history of the human search for methods to determine which ideas about the world are true." The book brings together theories of cognitive development and anthropological theories of culture to argue that humanity's attempts to understand the world exhibit developmental patterns. Ranging from ancient to contemporary times, *Stages of Thought* draws on an enormous array of sources from numerous fields to make an argument linking the histories of religious and scientific thought.

Dennis Doyle's *Communion Ecclesiology: Vision and Versions* (Orbis Books) examines a central contemporary way of understanding the church—communion ecclesiology—and argues that its varying, sometimes competing, "versions" can be mediated. In other words, the "vision" of the Church can be broadly inclusive and unifying and move beyond currently polarizing left/right theological dichotomies. The book analyzes the works of a wide range of influential theologians of the last two centuries and makes their insights available in a cogent narrative that sheds light on the contemporary situation.

In *Inventing Catholic Tradition*, (Orbis Books) Terrence W. Tilley argues for a concept of tradition as an enduring set of practices, developing the concept by examining how it can be illustrated in the practice of the Eucharist. The book then goes on to specify and describe a "grammar" or set of rules by which the practices of

a tradition can be understood, then applies the idea of a grammar by specifying the "rules" of Catholic intellectual tradition. It concludes with reflections on how its ideas relate to Catholic theology more broadly. The project grew out of a 1997 lecture given by Dr. Tilley at the invitation of the University of Dayton Forum on the Catholic Intellectual Tradition Today.

International Debt Conference

On September 29-30, 2000, the University hosted a conference on the ethics of international debt forgiveness. Titled "Break the Chains of World Debt: Impact and History, Conflict and Solutions," the conference was sponsored by the Forum on the Catholic Intellectual Tradition Today.

The two-day meeting began with speakers from two countries affected by heavy debt burdens. Joseph Sampa Kalungu (of the Structural Adjustment Monitoring Project, Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace, Bishops' Conference of Zambia) and Oscar Ugarteche (Department of Social Sciences, Pontifical Catholic University of Peru, Lima) spoke about the human and economic impact of the debt on owing countries.

Saturday's sessions began with a panel on the origins of the debt problem, and ethical and theological reflections on the debt. Comprised of Charles Mansfield, former Vice President of Chase-Manhattan Bank, and Rev. Michael Seigel, the head of the World Debt Working Group for the Union of Superiors General in Rome, the panel offered a rare dialogue between perspectives not often willing to engage with one another over the issues raised by the debt.

The afternoon featured a panel presentation and discussion composed of three University of Dayton alums who work or have worked with debt issues. Jo Marie Griesgraber (UD '70) of OxFam America, Ann Hudock (UD '90) of the U.S. State Department, and Robert Saum (UD '84) of the Asia Division of the World Bank described the policy complexities involved with debt forgiveness and at the same time encouraged practical activism, especially urging Congress to approve \$435 million in debt forgiveness.

The conference ended with a plenary discussion involving all seven speakers, in which students asked deeply thoughtful questions about the connection between university education and the committed professional activity represented by the conference speakers. Fr. Seigel has since proposed a potential collaboration among the conference speakers on drafting a voluntary code of conduct for private creditors lending to sovereign borrowers, so the conference may have effects well beyond its original goals.

Recent Activities of University Professor of Faith and Culture

Steve Dandaneau, the newly appointed director of the Honors Program, and I will conduct a capstone seminar for Honor students in the Winter term that will focus on issues raised by critical theory and contemporary Catholicism that will relate faith and reason.

I presented two papers at the June meeting of the College Theology Society hosted this year by Villanova University in Philadelphia. The first paper described and evaluated the Humanities and Social Sciences faculty seminar held here during 1999. The

second paper was on the current state of the *Ex corde ecclesiae* discussion; I continue to do research on issues related to Catholic higher education. A revised version of a keynote presentation on "Religion and US Culture" will appear in the next issue of *Catholic Education*. Fred Pestello, Ron Katsuyama and I are completing a second article on the research we conducted concerning hiring practices at twelve US Catholic colleges and universities, this time comparing the attitudes and priorities of faculty on this matter to those of administrators. In September, I presented my annual Faith and Culture lecture; this time the topic was, "Virtues for the Academy: the Example of Charles Taylor." Those virtues, by the way, were: humility, truthfulness and courage. (See text at http://alumni.udayton.edu/np_story.asp?storyID=322.)

UD Faculty: Recent Work in Brief

Una Cadegan (History and American Studies) presented a paper entitled "'My Immaculate Heart Will Triumph': The Fatima Devotion and U.S. Roman Catholic Anti-communism, 1917-1959" at the October 2000 meeting of the American Studies Association in Detroit, Michigan. The paper was part of a session entitled "The Roman Catholic Household and American Catholic Identity," which also featured papers by Tony Smith of UD's Religious Studies Department (see below) and Leslie Woodcock Tentler of the Catholic University of America, and comments by John McGreevy of the University of Notre Dame.

In addition to *Communion Ecclesiology*, noted above, **Dennis Doyle** (Religious Studies) has also published a children's book co-written with his son Patrick. Entitled *Rumors at School*, the book appeared this fall from Paulist Press. Dr. Doyle is also participating in "The United Method-

ist-Roman Catholic Dialogue," which hopes over the next three to five years to produce a document on ecclesiology.

Edward Garten (Dean of Libraries and Information Technologies), attended the Oxford Summer School in Religious Studies at Wadham College, Oxford, August 4 - 21, 2000 where he focused his reading on New British Theology with its integration of religious studies and theology.

Tom Hunt (School of Education) has submitted a manuscript for *A Handbook of Research on Catholic Education* to Greenwood Publishing group (forthcoming September, 2001). He will revise and co-edit, with Ellis Joseph and Ronald Nuzzi, John Convey's 1990 *Catholic Schools Make a Difference: Twenty-five Years of Research* (April 2002). In Summer 2000, he finished a term as editor of *The Private School Monitor*.

The Thomas Institut of Utrecht has invited **John Inglis** (Philosophy) to deliver a plenary session at the December 2000 international conference entitled "Aquinas as Authority: Seven Centuries of Problems and Perspectives." The plenary address is titled "Freiheit, Liberté, Freedom: The Recovery of Aquinas after 1848 as Interpretation or Misinterpretation."

Therese Lysaught (Religious Studies) wrote an article for *Commonweal* on conjoined twins Jodi and Mary ("Is It Killing? Separating Conjoined Twins"), which appeared in the October 20, 2000 issue. The same week (October 17th) Therese and husband Bill Ryker's own (thankfully healthy and marvelous) twins Mary Margaret and Samuel Alexander, also appeared.

Cecilia Moore (Religious Studies) received a Louisville Institute Summer Research grant to pursue the topic "African American Conversion to Catholicism in the Twentieth Century." She also presented a paper on Paul H. Furfey and Francis Gilligan's theology related to the race question at the Black Catholic Theological Symposium at Marquette University in October 2000.

The title of the paper is "American Catholics and the Race Question, 1925-1950."

Richard B. Saphire (School of Law) gave a lecture on November 14, 2000 to the Cardozo Society of Greater Dayton on the topic: "Religion and the Professional Life of a (Jewish) Lawyer."

Anthony B. Smith (Religious Studies) gave a paper, "The Other Catholic Social Reformer on the Radio: John A. Ryan, Fr. Coughlin and Liberal Catholicism in America," at the annual American Studies Association Conference in Detroit, October, 2000. In September he gave a presentation, "John A. Ryan and the Modern Culture of Abundance in Twentieth-Century America" to the Religious Studies Colloquium. Both papers were based on summer research on John A. Ryan made possible by a research grant from the Forum on the Catholic Intellectual Tradition Today. Smith also participated in the annual Collegium Collo-

quy on Faith and Intellectual Life.

William Vance Trollinger, Jr., gave the keynote address, "Faith, History, and the Conference on Faith and History," at the Conference's October, 2000 meeting. He also participated in a panel discussion at a session sponsored by the American Society of Church History at the November meeting of the American Academy of Religion in Nashville, Tennessee. Entitled "Is there a Center to American Religious History?" the session also included Amanda Porterfield (University of Wyoming), Stephen J. Stein (Indiana University), and Peter W. Williams (Miami University).

Bro. Tom Wendorf (English) has two pieces scheduled to appear: "Greene's Mystery Stories" will be published in a collection of essays, *Perceptions of Religious Faith in the Work of Graham Greene*, edited by William Thomas Hill and due out in April 2001 from Peter Lange publishers; and an article "Allegory in Post-

modernity: Graham Greene's *The Captain and the Enemy*," has been accepted for publication in the Summer 2001 issue of *Christianity and Literature*.

For the next issue:

The next issue of "Faith's Reasons" will appear in the spring of 2001. If you know of any other activities, events, people, or publications that should be highlighted here, please bring them to the attention of the editors. Contact Una Cadegan by e-mail (cadegan@udayton.edu) or at the Dept. of History, The University of Dayton, Dayton, OH 45469-1540.

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